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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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REPORT

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- 2 -

COUNTRY USSR/Austria

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- 3 -

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SOVIET ARMY MORALE, SECURITY, AND PROPAGANDA

Table of Contents

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. MORALE FACTORS	3
1. Dependents	3
2. Pass Policies	3
a. Officers and Career NCO's	3
b. Conscript EM	3
3. Leave Policies	4
4. State of Discipline	4
5. Drunkenness	5
6. Venereal Disease	5
7. Medical Care	5
8. Other Morale Factors	5
9. Defections	5
10. Hearsay Morale Information on Isolated Soviet Army Units	5
II. FRATERNIZATION	6
III. SECURITY PROCEDURES AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES	6
1. Unit Designations	6
2. Unit Standard	6
3. Security Duties	6
4. Security Policies for Foreign Nationals Employed by the Unit	7
5. Military Intelligence Section	7
6. MVD	7
7. Powers of Arrest	7
8. Censorship	7
9. Photograph Policy	8
10. Komendaturas	8
11. Protection of Classified Documents	8
12. Use of Civilian Clothes and Cars	8
IV. WESTERN PROPAGANDA	

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

- 5 -

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These weapons were taken from the arms room with the knowledge of the CQ, who was almost always a private or Pfc even though the CQ should have been one of the sergeants of the unit. However, the sergeants always assigned a man in their place on CQ, with the OD winking at it. Although the gate guards knew the men who were leaving were violating orders, no one was ever apprehended or punished on this score. Furthermore, since there were over 1,000 troops in the caserne, this meant that the gate guards did not always personally know the would-be violators. Even if they did they would pass them without further check.

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3. Leave Policies

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Officers of the 735th Sep Radio Comm Bn, told that they were authorized 45 days of annual leave, excluding travel time. the policy for career NCO's was the same.

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the Bn CO decided when an officer from the unit could be spared for leave. in any one given period, not more than three officers were on leave at one time. This was about 10 percent of the battalion officer strength.

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No annual leave was authorized for conscript EM, but leave was granted to certain men under special circumstances. These were either outstanding service or compassionate reasons. These special leaves never exceeded 10 days, travel time excluded.

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leaves granted to conscript EM by the Bn CO official, ly never exceeded more than eight percent of the battalion EM strength at any one time. However, he stated that as many as 50 percent of the 179 conscript EM in his battalion were granted leaves for meritorious service or for compassionate reasons by the unit CO, during the year he served in it. The reason for the high percentage in this battalion was that most of the EM in the unit had been chosen for it by reason of outstanding service in other units. Many of the leaves for meritorious service had been originally granted by former CO's and were honored only when the men had already transferred to this unit.

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Several compassionate leaves were granted to conscript EM on the basis that a soldier's mother was seriously ill. In one case, a soldier was granted a leave because his home in the USSR had burned down and he was needed to help in building a new one.

the current leave policy was just not a topic of discussion by the conscript EM of the unit. He had the impression that most of the men just wanted to finish their tour of duty and go back home. They often said that if they went home on leave, they probably would not want to come back.

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4. State of Discipline

discipline in the 735th Sep Radio-Comm Bn was poor. The unit EM were constantly being harassed by young officers of the unit. He said that these officers had just completed OCS and that this was their first assignment to a unit. He stated that they were inexperienced; and if they gave an order that was not carried out, they did not know what to do about it. only in the training platoon of the battalion was there good discipline. This, he felt, was due to the attitude of its platoon leader, who, he thought, was fairer than the other officers. In addition, the training platoon personnel were first-year men who were more reluctant to rebel than older soldiers.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

- 4 -

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Soviet Standard Brief

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SOVIET ARMY MORALE, SECURITY, AND PROPAGANDA

A. MORALE FACTORS

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1. Dependents

[redacted] the dependents of officers in his battalion and other units in the vicinity of BADEN, Austria, whom he was familiar with, began to arrive in Aug 54. He said that many of the dependent families included children of school age. He had often seen two daughters of a Soviet Army colonel (nu) who were about 17 and 18 years old. The girls lived in the caserne area and attended the dependent school in BADEN. Even though a few families arrived in Aug 54, the majority of the dependents arrived during the first week of September. It was at this time that the Soviet dependent school was opened in BADEN.

There was never any explanation given to or question asked by the conscripts as to why their dependents were not admitted freely into Austria. Source said that about five of the conscripts in his bn were married, with their wives in the USSR.

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2. Pass Policies

a. Officers and Career NCO's

[redacted] officers were permitted to leave the caserne after duty hours seven days a week, although they had to sign out with the officer of the day. He thought that the officers could stay out all night, reporting for work and signing in at 0800 hours. He based this assumption on the fact that he was often on guard duty and saw his unit officers returning to the caserne at 0400 and 0500 hours. The pass policy was the same for career NCO's.

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[redacted] did not know if there was any limitation on the number of officers who could be on pass. Most of them were married and lived in the caserne with their families. They seemed to come and go freely, needing only to sign in and out.

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b. Conscript EM

Conscript EM could leave the post only on Saturdays and Sundays, and [redacted] these EM could leave only in groups of three or four at a time. On Saturdays their passes became valid right after dinner (1530 hours), and the man had to be back at supper time (at 2100 hours). On Sundays EM passes were valid from 1100 hours to supper time.

[redacted] passes were issued by the Co CQ, who wrote the names of the men on the pass. The senior ranking man was always responsible for the group. [redacted] no more than 10 EM were ever on pass at one time. The majority of the conscript EM in [redacted] unit violated the restriction to the post after duty hours, however. They almost all took turns in leaving the post at night, using their "own method", in leaving and entering the post without passes and without questioning by the gate guard. He said that the EM of the company, usually two at a time, would draw a SMG (the PPSH model) from the company arms room and walk out the gate in pairs with the weapons. The gate guard always took it for granted that these men were going out on a patrol and did not question them. When they were seen in town, no one would question them for the same reason. Occasionally one man would go out with a weapon; and since the guards assumed that he was a courier of some sort, he was therefore not questioned.

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- 6 -

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[] there were many cases of disobedience of orders by EM [] but they were all minor and nothing was usually done about them. It seemed [] that the officers of the unit could not cope with the problem when an EM disobeyed them, so they let it go by. He added that most of the infractions of the orders occurred on fatigue details.

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[] there was always at least one man in the battalion stockade, which had an estimated capacity of about 10 men. Usually there were three or four men there. There were no bars on the windows of the stockade, and he thought that anyone that wanted to get out could readily do so.

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5. Drunkenness

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[] The majority of the EM drank when they had the opportunity, even though it was forbidden by regulation for conscript EM to do so. [] could not say that drunkenness was prevalent because a soldier did not have enough money to purchase liquor often. [] several other EM once made their own wine in the caserne. They stored this wine in the engine compartment of one of the radio trucks which was seldom used.

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6. Venereal Disease

[] one EM had venereal disease. He had picked it up during one of the field exercises in Hungary, [] where venereal disease was prevalent. [] did not know if any of the officers of the unit had venereal disease.

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7. Medical Care

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Medical care in the unit [] was adequate and never a source of complaint. Recreational facilities were plentiful; there was a library and gymnasium on the post and there were musical instruments in each of the company day rooms for their use. The town of BADEN had a Soviet Army-run club which was within walking distance of the caserne and had movies and concerts. 4.

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8. Other Morale Factors

[] the low pay and poor food in his unit were the main contributing factors to low morale. This was particularly so in the case of food; [] very often food served to the EM had worms in it. He said that these two items were always a topic of discussion among the EM.

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The EM resented the fact that the officers were able to leave the caserne at night and drink freely, received better food. Also the vast difference in the pay scale was resented by the EM.

[] there was no dissatisfaction with the promotion policy for the EM nor had [] any discussion about officer promotion policies. 5.

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9. Defections

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[] company political officer once mentioned that an unidentified Soviet Army defector was returned to the USSR by the Americans and that this individual was to be court-martialed. The officer never gave

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- 7 -

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any indication as to what the fate of this man would be. Defection or the fate of defectors was never discussed by the EM of the unit, for fear that someone might report them. [] never heard or seen any American or other Western propaganda. 25X1

10. Hearsay Morale Information on Isolated Soviet Army Units 25X1

[] in the Kurile Islands [] suicide was common among the troops [] 25X1
serving there. At the time, many men [] had come from large cities 25X1
in the USSR and could not take the type of life that was prevalent in the Kurile Islands. [] 25X1

B. FRATERNIZATION 25X1

[] officially fraternization was condoned "on paper." 25X1
He had read in the Soviet Army newspaper published in BADEN that fraternization and even marriage with Austrian nationals was permitted. This declaration was signed by Marshal VOROSHILOV. However, fraternization was prohibited by his unit CO, as well as by the CO's of the other units in his caserne, in actual practice. [] the CO told the men of another order he had 25X1
received from CGF Hq which countermanded the declaration in the newspaper.

[] in BADEN, Komandatura patrols were responsible in 25X1
enforcing the non-fraternization regulation. [] independent 25X1
patrols were sent into the city by Soviet Army units in or near the city in order to enforce this regulation. [] 25X1
See section C 12 for a description of one such special patrol. In other such patrols the patrol detail consisted of one officer and two EM. 25X1

C. SECURITY PROCEDURES AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

1. Unit Designations

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[] the C/S would read the order directly from a sheet of paper and that the message always started with "Order to the 735th Sep Radio-Comm Bn, order number.....". The unit FPN [] was stamped in his service book. 25X1

[] the only place where he saw any mark indicating his own unit's identification in any way were on the unit laundry and on the newly issued parade uniforms where the last three digits of the FPN were stamped. 6. He did not know where or how laundry was processed. He learned the designation of other units through conversation with men of his unit, or by personally knowing someone in another unit. 7. 25X1

[] never saw or heard of a documentary listing of other units, nor did [] ever see or hear of unit designations being marked on equipment [] 25X1

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- 8 -

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3. Security Duties

[] unit furnished a patrol of one officer and two EM for the town of BADEN, Austria. He said that this patrol was furnished for a 24-hour period every other month. The unidentified Signal Regiment that was quartered in the same caserne as [] unit furnished a patrol during the alternate months. The duty of this patrol was to check passes of Soviet personnel and to keep general order in the town. It seemed to work independently of the town Komendatura.

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[] unit also had daily sentry duty within and around the perimeter of the caserne where the battalion was located. During the hours of darkness his unit sent out a two-man patrol to walk the perimeter outside the caserne fence. A guard was posted at one of the caserne gates and another at the unit garage and POL storage point. [] that this guard checked all the garage doors to see that they had not been tampered with. Each night, these doors were locked and sealed by the OD.

[] all that was ever checked on an EM entering his caserne at night was his pass. He had never had occasion to show his service book as a means of identification. He added that officers entering the caserne at night were never asked for identification.

4. Security Policies for Foreign Nationals Employed by the Unit

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[] there were about 20 unknown Austrians employed, but none expressly by his unit. They were employed permanently for the general maintenance and remodeling of the caserne facilities. There were plumbers, carpenters, masons and other laborers in this group, and two unidentified Austrian maids were employed in the BOQ. These were the only foreign nationals permitted to enter the caserne area. [] the gate guard had a master list of all of them with their names and descriptions. The guard checked the individual passes which were issued to them and occasionally their passports. However, these passes and passports were checked only when Austrian employees entered the caserne, not when leaving it.

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5. Military Intelligence Section

[] no knowledge of any military intelligence section in Battalion or any other unit.

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6. MVD

[] never seen any uniformed MVD troops in Austria.

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7. Powers of Arrest

[] any Soviet Army officer could arrest an EM. However [] the belief prevailed [] that a sergeant in the Soviet Army did not have to take orders from an officer outside his unit if his rank was that of lieutenant colonel or less.

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8. Censorship

[] mail had been censored until Apr 54, but [] censorship was then discontinued. Until this date, all the mail received bore a military censorship stamp on the envelope. [] up to Apr 54 there had been some sort of Army censorship unit in BADEN, Austria, composed of about seven unidentified Soviet Army women lieutenants.

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- 9 -

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Personnel were occasionally reminded by unit officers that they could not write home about their pay, location, work, or type of unit. No mention was ever made of what the penalty would be if a soldier was caught violating this rule.

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9. Photograph Policy

[redacted] EM in [redacted] unit were never told of any restrictions on what they could photograph. [redacted] the men [redacted] took pictures of themselves in trucks or standing around some pieces of equipment. There were also no restrictions he knew of as to the ownership of cameras. All the men in his unit developed and printed their films themselves, purchasing photographic supplies in the Soviet "Univermag" in BADEN and occasionally in a local Austrian shop. He did not know if they were permitted to have their films developed or printed in an Austrian shop, although he had heard nothing to the contrary.

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10. Komandaturas

Source went to the Soviet Komandatura in BADEN on several occasions once in line of duty and several other times when he was interned in the Komandatura stockade. The Komandatura CO was a colonel (name and branch of service unknown); and [redacted] estimated the EM strength as being about 40, or "platoon size"; [redacted] they were infantry shoulderboards 9. (See section C 12 of this report for information on a special Komandatura patrol in which [redacted] participated and which was to suppress any distribution of anti-Soviet literature.)

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11. Protection of Classified Documents

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12. Use of Civilian Clothes and Cars

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[redacted] on one occasion in Feb 54 when [redacted] on guard at the main gate of [redacted] garrison area, a car painted black with Austrian license plates drove up with two men in it, both wearing civilian clothing. One man dismounted and asked [redacted] for admission to the garrison area. He stated that he had business in the 3d Co of the Signal Regiment, which was in the same garrison. [redacted] asked the duty officer, who was in the nearby guard booth, if this man could enter and the officer said yes. Later, [redacted] asked the officer why this man was able to enter the garrison, and the officer told [redacted] that this man was a counter-intelligence agent. [redacted] this alleged agent spoke native Russian. He had no further information on him.

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[redacted] a Pvt (fnu) BOLOTOV, who served in [redacted] unit [redacted] had served with an unidentified counter-intelligence unit in Hungary for about four months. BOLOTOV stated that there were 12 EM and four officers in this unit and that the officers constantly wore civilian clothing, while the EM all wore Army uniforms. BOLOTOV had served as a guard for the building they lived in.

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On 7 Nov 54 [redacted] about 20 men [redacted] from [redacted] units near BADEN, were told to report to the Komandatura in BADEN. Upon arrival there, all the men were told by the duty officer, a major (nu), that they would be given their instructions for the day from a Russian-speaking man whom he called Anatoli ALEKSANDROVICH. This man, who was dressed in civilian clothing, was the individual who assigned the men [redacted] to the 7 Nov 54 special patrols and posts in and around the city of BADEN.

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- 10 -

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(See Section C 10. It was he who told them to be on the alert for individuals spreading anti-Soviet literature and gave instructions to have them arrested or shot.

If such literature was spread from a car, 25X1 the men were to shoot immediately. However, no one told Aleksandrovich that they were without cartridges, nor did any untoward incidents occur during the day.

[redacted] this man, besides being dressed in civilian clothes, wore his hair very long and had extremely thick heels on his shoes. He added that he spoke native Russian, but it could not be deduced from his outward appearance that he was a Russian.

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